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CIA Comes Out of the Cold

Hundreds Spying for Russia in U.S., Prize Defector Reveals

By THOMAS B. ROSS
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WASHINGTON.

EXPLOITING a prize Russian defector, the Central Intelligence Agency has embarked on an unusual plan to expose the dangers of Soviet espionage.

Normally the most secretive arm of the Government, the CIA has decided to make public some of the revelations of Yevgeny Y. Runge, a 39-year-old Russian intelligence officer who defected in West Germany last month.

The principal purpose is to sound a note of caution to those citizens and officials who, the CIA believes, are engaged in wishful thinking about the possibility of a peaceful accommodation with the Soviet Union.

Runge's disclosures are being advanced as proof that the Russians are conducting

a massive campaign of espionage against the United States and its Allies.

THE CIA is asserting, in connection with the Runge case, that:

—Hundreds of agents such as Runge are spying in the United States and other Western countries and that the network is being expanded.

—The KGB, the Soviet intelligence organization, employs 600,000 to one million persons at home and abroad, but only 10,000 of these are engaged in foreign intelligence. The rest are involved in internal security, border patrol and the guarding of Russian leaders.

—The Russians rely principally upon Soviet and satellite citizens for their spies, whereas the United States recruits natives of Eastern Europe and Russia for its agents.

RUNGE, in CIA parlance, was an "illegal," that is a spy who slips into another country and operates under an assumed name and nationality. He reportedly told the CIA this story:

—He was born in the Ukraine in 1928 of parents of German extraction. During the Second World War, the Nazi invaders sent him to Germany to work.

—After the war he became a Red Army interpreter and then joined Soviet intelligence in 1949. He received intensive training as an "illegal" from 1952 to 1955.

—He was given the assumed name of Willie Kurt Gast and the assumed birthplace of Duninowo, a town in the border area which shifted from German to Polish control after the war. Runge spent two weeks there in 1954 familiarizing himself with his assumed background.

—In 1956 he married Walentina Rusch, an East German working for Soviet intelligence, and together they slipped into West Germany. There, they operated first a dry-cleaning establishment and later a vending-machine business in Cologne as cover for their espionage activities.

RUNGE recruited two principal agents: Leopold Pieschel, a key official in the French Embassy in Bonn, and Heinz Sutterlin, an East German who successfully carried out orders to marry a secretary in the German Foreign Ministry.

In 1960 Runge moved to Frankfurt, opened a tavern, had a son, and established himself as a solid family man. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the KGB with a monthly salary of \$420. The money was credited to

his account in Moscow and the Runoges lived in Germany on their business earnings.

Runge operated effectively as a Soviet spy until last summer when he and his family returned to the Soviet Union for a vacation at an intelligence officers' retreat on the Black Sea.

Runge was called to Moscow, awarded a medal, informed that he was to learn English—possibly for assignment in the United States—and that he and his wife were to leave their son behind on their next mission.

DISENCHANTED with the wearying life of a spy, annoyed with the KGB's bureaucracy, attracted by life in the West, and most of all unwilling to leave his son, Runge decided to defect.

He convinced Yuri V. Andropov, head of the KGB, that too much suspicion

would be aroused if he did not return from his vacation and so he was allowed to go back to West Germany.

He managed to photograph his personnel file before departing in order to prove his identity to the CIA.

Last month Runge carried out his plan of defection and was immediately whisked to the United States. He was ensconced with his family in a CIA "safe" house and has spent the ensuing days under constant interrogation.

His information has led to the arrest or surveillance of 20 other agents and there are intimations that he may also point the way to spies in the United States.

He is still talking and will undoubtedly provide ever more details for the campaign to restrain those the CIA thinks are too rapidly "building bridges" to the Soviet Union.